

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MC-02 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-02 ACDA-07 ARAE-00

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P R 271153Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2754

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0657

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, NS

SUBJ: GOS ON FMS DESIGNATION

REF : (A) PARAMARIBO 0645 (NOTAL), (B) PARAMARIBO 0637 (NOTAL),
(C) PARAMARIBO 0623 (151035Z JUL 76)

1. AFTER SPATE OF STORIES IN PRESS WEEKEND JULY 17-18
CHARGING THAT US ACTION IN ADDING SURINAM TO LIST OF FMS-
ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES WAS MEANT TO "ARM" SURINAM, GOS INFORMED
EMBASSY THAT IT HAD NOT ISSUED ANY STATEMENT BECAUSE STORIES
HAD RAPIDLY DIED DOWN AND IT DID NOT WANT TO REKINDLE INTEREST;
IT WOULD, HOWEVER, MAKE STATEMENT IF MATTER CAME UP AGAIN
PUBLICLY.

2. COORDINATING MINISTER OF DEFENSE EDDY HOOST WAS QUERIED
ABOUT THESE STORIES BY DE WARE TIJD, WHICH CARRIED HIS ANSWERS
IN JULY 24 EDITION. HOOST IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SURINAM HAS
BOUGHT NO WEAPONS FROM THE US AND SURELY HAS NO MALICIOUS INTENT
TOWARD GUYANA. HOOST SAID THAT USG HAD EARLY THIS YEAR
TAKEN DECISION TO INCLUDE SURINAM AMONG SO-CALLED FMS
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COUNTRIES, WHICH SIMPLY MEANS COUNTRIES TO WHICH THE US

CAN SUPPLY MILITARY MATERIEL, AND THAT THIS WAS DONE BECAUSE SURINAM HAD BECOME INDEPENDENT.

3. HOOST ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT TWO WEEKS AGO TWO FMS EXPERTS HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE SURINAM ARMY VIA THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, TO CHECK ON WHAT SURINAM MIGHT EVENTUALLY WANT, NOT ONLY RE WEAPONS BUT PERSONAL EQUIPMENT AS WELL. HOOST NOTED THAT SURINAM WOULD HAVE TO PAY CASH AND THAT DELIVERY TIMES ARE VERY LONG, SO ORDERING FROM US WOULD NOT BE ATTRACTIVE.

4. COMMENT: HOOST COMMENT IS STRAIGHTFORWARD REPETITION OF LINE, ALSO TAKEN BY EMBASSY IN EARLIER STATEMENT, THAT FMS STATUS WAS NATURAL OUTCOME OF INDEPENDENCE FOR SURINAM, THERE BEING NO REASON TO DENY SURINAM STATUS HELD BY MOST OTHER WESTERN HEMISPHERE NATIONS AND MANY OTHERS THROUGHOUT WORLD. GOS IS UNLIKELY TO WANT TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT RE APPLICABILITY OF FMS TO TRANSFER OF WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT LEFT IN SURINAM BY DUTCH. THIS STATEMENT OF HOOST IS ALSO FIRST PUBLIC NOTICE ACCORDED RECENT VISIT OF TWO USCINCSO OFFICERS; AT TIME OF THEIR VISIT EMBASSY SOUGHT NO PUBLICITY BUT NEITHER DID IT SEEK IN ANY WAY TO HIDE THEIR PRESENCE. ZURHELLEN

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Message Attributes

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